

H1 wherein said elastic member is provided between a sleeve and said core in order to form said buffer portion, said sleeve being disposed between a core and a valve holder of the solenoid, said elastic member being attached to a portion of said sleeve located near an end portion of a coil which is nearest to said needle valve, and said elastic member extending in a perpendicular direction away from said sleeve toward said core.

Sub I 2

6. (Three-times Amended) A fuel injection valve for opening and closing a needle valve by driving an armature with a solenoid, said fuel injection valve comprising:

H2 a buffer portion damping a change of fuel pressure caused by valve bounce when the needle is closed, said buffer portion being an elastic member disposed at a position at which said buffer portion faces and contacts a fuel passage located at an upstream side with respect to an end face of said armature located on a side of a nozzle opening side,

wherein substantially all of said buffer portion contacts fuel in said fuel passage.

7. (Three-times Amended) A fuel injection valve for opening and closing a needle valve by driving an armature with a solenoid, said fuel injection valve comprising:

a buffer portion damping a change of fuel pressure caused by valve bounce when the needle is closed, said buffer portion being an elastic member disposed at a position at which said buffer portion faces and contacts a fuel passage located at an upstream side with respect to an end face on a nozzle opening side of said armature,


wherein substantially all of said buffer portion contacts fuel in said fuel passage.

Sub I 3

H3 8. (Amended) A fuel injection valve for opening and closing a needle valve by driving an armature with a solenoid, said fuel injection valve comprising:

means for damping a change of fuel pressure caused by valve bounce when the needle is closed, said means being an elastic member disposed at a position at which said means faces and contacts a fuel passage located at an upstream side with respect to an end face of said armature located on a side of a nozzle opening side.

9. (Amended) A fuel injection valve for opening and closing a needle valve by driving an armature with a solenoid, said fuel injection valve comprising:

 means for damping a change of fuel pressure caused by valve bounce when the needle is closed, said means being an elastic member disposed at a position at which said means faces and contacts a fuel passage located at an upstream side with respect to an end face on a nozzle opening side of said armature.

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